



KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

Giving thanks for adoptive families

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

Six thousand children in Michigan are in foster care, waiting, hoping and praying that someone will adopt them.

In Kalamazoo County alone, 140 children are eligible for adoption and waiting for a permanent family.

Today, two days before Thanksgiving, the Family Division of the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court is giving more than 20 children and the adults who want to be their parents something to be truly thankful for. On the fourth annual Michigan Adoption Day, these children and adults are having their adoptions confirmed in open court.

While many would-be parents are traveling abroad to adopt children in other countries, there are plenty of children here who await someone to adopt them.

Often, the children are older, or are racial minorities or have physical or mental disabilities. Sometimes they are part of a group of siblings who hope to be adopted together.

Still, we know there are permanent homes for many of these children. Last year, more than 2,800 children with special needs were adopted.

This Thanksgiving, as readers gather around their tables with their families and loved ones, several newly formed families will be giving thanks for the adoptions that have enlarged their circles.

But let us also remember those thousands of children who are still waiting in foster homes for adults whom they can call mom and dad.

They'd like to have something to be thankful for, too.

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